

Message Text

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12

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 L-01

PRS-01 /020 W

----- 019302

R 151529Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1709

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0690

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIANS IN GTMO

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA AND AMEMBASSY PORT
AU PRINCE PRIORITY INFO CNO WASHDC AND COMNAVFORCARIB ROOSEVELT
RDS PR FROM COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA DTG 121413Z MAR 76
REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L /LIMDIS/HAITIAN REFUGEES/OPREP-3/001/FO

CNO OP-6# //N05710//

A. DEPT OF STATE (S/R:ORM) AIRGRAM OF 20 AUG 74

1. (C) AT 111940Q MARCH 76, A 20 FT MOTORIZED SAILBOAT CARRYING 8
HAITIAN MALES AND ONE FOUR YEAR OLD MALE CHILD, LANDED AT THE U.S.
NAVAL BASE AT KITTEERY BEACH (18QVT 909005). GROUP IS GENERALLY
YOUNG, RANGING IN AGE FROM 4 TO 36 YEARS. NAMES AND PERSONAL DATA
AVAILABLE IF DESIRED.
2. (C) GABRIEL CARTRIGHT, AGE 32 AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP,
PRESENTED A FALSE (BY HIS OWN ADMISSION) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
IDENTIFICATION CARD IDENTIFYING HIM AS GABRIEL SANTIAGO SANCHEZ.
HE SPOKE FLUENT SPANISH AND CLAIMED TO HAVE RELATIVES IN THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.
3. (C) CARTRIGHT STATED THAT THE GROUP DEPARTED HAITI (440KM
NORTH OF PORT AU PRINCE ON 16 FEB 76 TO SEEK ASYLUM IN THE
BAHAMAS. A STORM AT SEA DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE VOYAGE CLAIMED
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THE LIFE OF ONE OF THE GROUP; A MALE WHO WAS WASHED OVERBOARD. THE

GROUP ARRIVED AT HATIBONICO, CUBA (18 QVS 665987) ON 18 FEB AND WAS APPREHENDED BY CUBAN BORDER GUARDS. THE GROUP WAS INTERROGATED AND BILLETED OUTDOORS UNTIL 23 FEB. THEY WERE THEN TRANSPORTED TO SANTIAGO AND INTERROGATED FOR AN ADDITIONAL ELEVEN DAYS. ON 5 MARCH THE GROUP WAS RELEASED AFTER PAYING \$195.80 (U.S.) FOR FOOD AND LODGING AND SUPPLIES CONSISTING OF 25 GAL OF GASOLINE AND 4 QTS OF OIL. GROUP WAS WARNED THAT IF THEY LANDED ABOARD THE U.S. NAVAL BASE, THE AMERICANS WOULD KILL THEM.

4. (C) THREE INDIVIDUALS EXPRESS FEAR OF REPRISAL AND POSSIBLE EXECUTION IF RETURNED TO HAITI AND APPEAR TO MESS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM AS DESCRIBED IN REF (A). REMAINING INDIVIDUALS JOINED GROUP EITHER BECAUSE THEY WERE ASKED OR DUE TO POOR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN HAITI.

5. (C) RECOMMEND CONSULAR OFFICER FROM AMEMB PORT AU PRINCE COME TO GTMO TO CONDUCT INTERROGATION AND INVESTIGATION OF REFUGEES. STATION AIRCRAFT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE.

GDS-82

UNQUOTE

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